GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
DENTAL DISEASES PROGRAMME
BIR SING MAHATO;LAXMAN GILUWA;MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dental diseases among children and young people are taking the shape of epidemic in the country due to continuous increase in the consumption of chocolates, toffees and cold drinks;

(b) if so, whether AIIMS and Dental Association have suggested to include the dental diseases programme in the National Disease Eradication Programme; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) It is true that due to rising consumption of chocolate, toffee and soft drinks, there is an increase in the incidence of dental diseases. The Government have initiated a Pilot Project on National Oral Health Care Programme in five States of Delhi, Punjab Maharashtra, Kerala and North Eastern States.The main objective of this programme is to develop a low cost, sustainable and accessible preventive programme. The main component of this programme is the oral health education of the community i.e. to generate awareness among the public about the good oral hygiene and to restrict sticky food items and follow healthy practices.